

Questions for the Record for Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer
U.S. House Ways and Means Committee
Hearing on U.S.-China Trade
February 27, 2019

From Representative John Lewis to Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer

1. Please explain the impact of the shutdown on your staff and their ability to process and provide guidance on 301 exclusion requests?

Answer: During the shutdown USTR's Section 301 product exclusions team continued to carry on the analytical and public guidance work to the greatest extent provided by law. I would refer you to other agencies that work on Section 301 for details on how they handled the shutdown.

2. Do you believe that USTR has the necessary staff and resources to process 301 exclusion requests in addition to handling the many other duties and responsibilities?

Answer: USTR aims to accomplish its Section 301 exclusion process mission and other duties and responsibilities at the current level of funding. That said, implementing an exclusion process for List 3 would involve a substantial level of resources.

3. If bilateral negotiations lead to the removal of particular classifications from current tariff lists, how will USTR handle pending exclusion requests related to goods that are currently subject to Section 301 tariffs?

Answer: USTR will consider all options in the event tariff rates are modified, and will continue to consult with Congress on this and other matters arising under the Section 301 investigation.